

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FRANCE AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE

EMBASSY PARIS IS CONCERNED THAT MANY OF OUR ALLIES MAY HAVE MISTAKEN FRENCH EFFORTS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF US/USSR DETENTE FOR A REAL FRENCH DESIRE TO INCREASE ITS COOPERATION IN EUROPE'S DEFENSE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT US ACTIONS OF THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE MADE OUR ALLIES UNSURE ABOUT US INTENTIONS AND THAT RECEPTIVITY TO THE FRENCH EFFORTS HAS THEREFORE INCREASED. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE US UNDERTAKE A COMPLETE REVIEW OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO MAKE A PURPOSEFUL INPUT TO EUROPEAN THINKING BEFORE POSITIONS BECOME RIGID. (SECRET) PARIS 32491, 12/20 (EXDIS).

2. EC SPLITS ON SECRETARY'S ENERGY PROPOSAL

EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET HAS EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH AN
SECRET

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ENERGY ACTION GROUP, AND AGREES THAT EARLY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THE MATTER. HE POINTED OUT, THAT THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS SOME EC MEMBERS ARE MAKING ON A BI-

LATERAL BASIS WITH ARAB PRODUCERS CAN CAUSE FRICTION BETWEEN THE US, JAPAN, AND THE EC, AND AMONG EC MEMBERS AS WELL. SUCH APPROACHES SHOULD BE COORDINATED AMONG ALL CONSUMER COUNTRIES AND PRODUCERS. SIMONET NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, NOTABLY EC PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND THE FRENCH, DO NOT SHARE THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON THE SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY CRISIS.

(CONFIDENTIAL) EC BRUSSELS 7417, 12/20.

3. FRENCH OIL DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA

FRANCE HAS CONCLUDED A LONG-TERM OIL PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA WHICH PROVIDES FRANCE WITH 200,000 BPD FOR THREE YEARS WITH OPTIONS FOR MORE AND FOR A LONGER PERIOD. AMBASSADOR AKINS HAS INDICATED TO THE PETROLEUM ADVISER TO THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE SIZE OF THE AGREEMENT IS EXCESSIVE AND THAT THE US WOULD FIND ANY LARGER DEAL WITH FRANCE UNACCEPTABLE. THE ADVISER URGED US COMPANIES TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA TO TALK ABOUT PACKAGE DEALS. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 5624, 12/20 (EXDIS).

4. ARAMCO HAS NEW OIL PROPOSAL FOR SAUDI ARABIA

EMBASSY JIDDA HAS LEARNED THAT ARAMCO'S PARENT COMPANIES HAVE AGREED ON A PROPOSAL TO OFFER SAUDI ARABIA A 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER OF ARAMCO IN THAT COUNTRY. COMPENSATION WOULD COME IN THE FORM OF BONDS OR PREFERRED STOCK, GIVING THE AMERICAN OWNERS OF ARAMCO A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF CONTINUED ACCESS TO SAUDI CRUDE AND NOMINAL INFLUENCE, IF NOT CONTROL, OVER THE DEVELOPMENT AND LEVELS OF PRODUCTION. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH IS AIMED AT REPLACING THE STILLBORN PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, IS LIKELY TO BE SUBMITTED FORMALLY WITHIN WEEKS. (SECRET) JIDDA 5601, 12/19 (EXDIS).

5. ITALY MAY REQUEST TERRORISTS EXTRADITION

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VARIOUS ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED DECEMBER 20 THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE ZAGARI HAS INFORMED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT A REQUEST FOR THE EXTRADITION FROM KUWAIT OF THE FIUMICINO AIRPORT TERRORISTS IS IN PREPARATION. A JUSTICE MINISTRY CONTACT HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY ROME THAT EXTRADITION IS "UNDER STUDY" AND SAID THAT PUBLIC OPINION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FORCE A FORMAL REQUEST. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBT THAT KUWAIT WOULD RETURN THE TERRORISTS TO ITALY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 14162, 12/20.

6. PROSECUTION OF ARAB TERRORISTS

THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS
DECEMBER 20 THAT KUWAIT AND MOROCCO HAVE DECIDED TO
TURN THE HIJACKERS OVER TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION (PLO) FOR TRIAL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED
THAT THE HIJACKERS MIGHT EVEN BE SENTENCED TO DEATH.
THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE KUWAITIS AND OTHER ARABS MIGHT
HOLD THE PLO'S FEET TO THE FIRE THIS TIME. (CONFIDEN-
TIAL) KUWAIT 4429, 12/20. RUSH

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